

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 214189
ORIGIN SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/IAI:DAKORN:MGK
APPROVED BY NEA:MDRAPER
NEA/ARN:NHOWELL
S/S-O:SRPVALERGA

-----088265 231909Z /44

O 231835Z AUG 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

S E C R E T STATE 214189

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: LE, IS

SUBJECT: ISRAEL'S PRESS REPORTS ON LEBANON
REF: TEL AVIV 10824

1. WE ARE PUZZLED BY THE HEAVY EMPHASIS THAT THE ISRAELI PRESS SEEMS TO BE PUTTING ON POSSIBLE SYRIAN ACTION AGAINST CHRISTIAN AREAS OF BEIRUT. AS YOU KNOW, WITH A FEW MINOR EXCEPTIONS THE SITUATION IN BEIRUT HAS BEEN QUIET IN RECENT DAYS. STORIES IN ISRAELI PRESS REPORTED REFTEL ABOUT SYRIAN INTENTION OF RESUMING SHELLING OF BEIRUT AND TRYING TO SMASH CHRISTIAN FORCES, AND OF MASSING OF SYRIAN FORCES AROUND BEIRUT, SEEM TO US UNDULY ALARMIST. TAKEN TOGETHER WITH REPORT OF SECRET CONSULTATIONS BETWEEN BEGIN, DAYAN, WEIZMAN, EITAN AND "A MYSTERIOUS GUEST" (WITH THINLY VEILED HINTS THAT THE VISITOR WAS A REPRESENTATIVE OF LEBANESE CHRISTIANS) THIS IS JUST THE SORT OF THING LIKELY TO RAISE SYRIAN SUSPICIONS THAT ISRAEL IS PREPARING A MOVE.

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2. ---- WE WOULD APPRECIATE HAVING YOUR READING ON LATEST GOI VIEWS ON LEBANON. WE ARE ENCOURAGED BY CAUTIONARY NOTE SOUNDED TO PRESS BY WEIZMAN

ON THE DANGER OF ISRAELI MILITARY INTERVENTION'S TRIGGER-
ING A GENERAL WAR. CHRISTOPHER

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SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 214189
ORIGIN SS-15

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /016 R

66011

DRFTED BY IO/UNA:BJSHARP
APPROVED BY IO/UNA:JFTEFFT
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S E C R E T STATE 214189

EXDIS FOR AMB. YOUNG FROM UNA

FOLLOWING REPEAT STATE 214189 SENT ACTION TEL AVIV INFO
BEIRUT, DAMASCUS AND JERUSALEM AUG 23.

QUOTE: S E C R E T STATE 214189

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: LE, IS

SUBJECT: ISRAEL'S PRESS REPORTS ON LEBANON
REF: TEL AVIV 10824

1. WE ARE PUZZLED BY THE HEAVY EMPHASIS THAT THE ISRAELI
PRESS SEEMS TO BE PUTTING ON POSSIBLE SYRIAN ACTION AGAINST
CHRISTIAN AREAS OF BEIRUT. AS YOU KNOW, WITH A FEW MINOR
EXCEPTIONS THE SITUATION IN BEIRUT HAS BEEN QUIET IN
RECENT DAYS. STORIES IN ISRAELI PRESS REPORTED REFTTEL
ABOUT SYRIAN INTENTION OF RESUMING SHELLING OF BEIRUT AND
TRYING TO SMASH CHRISTIAN FORCES, AND OF MASSING OF SYRIAN
SECRET

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PAGE 02 STATE 214189

FORCES AROUND BEIRUT, SEEM TO US UNDULY ALARMIST. TAKEN TOGETHER WITH REPORT OF SECRET CONSULTATIONS BETWEEN BEGIN, DAYAN, WEIZMAN, EITAN AND "A MYSTERIOUS GUEST" (WITH THINLY VEILED HINTS THAT THE VISITOR WAS A REPRESENTATIVE OF LEBANESE CHRISTIANS) THIS IS JUST THE SORT OF THING LIKELY TO RAISE SYRIAN SUSPICIONS THAT ISRAEL IS PREPARING A MOVE.

2. WE WOULD APPRECIATE HAVING YOUR READING ON LATEST GOI VIEWS ON LEBANON. WE ARE ENCOURAGED BY CAUTIONARY NOTE SOUNDED TO PRESS BY WEIZMAN ON THE DANGER OF ISRAELI MILITARY INTERVENTION'S TRIGGERING A GENERAL WAR. CHRISTOPHER UNQUOTE CHRISTOPHER

SECRET

NNN

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